

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An intervertebral spacer device, comprising:

first and second plate members, each having plate surfaces thereof, said plate members being disposed in a spaced apart relationship such that inner ones of said plate surfaces oppose one another, and external ones of said plate surfaces face in opposite directions;

and at least one multi-pronged domed spring restoring force providing element disposed between the inner plate surfaces of said first and second plate members, and disposed such that a compressive load applied to the external plate surfaces of said plate members is counteracted by said at least one multi-pronged domed spring restoring force providing element.

2. (currently amended) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of said external plate surfaces of said first and second plate members comprises a porous coating.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said at least one multi-pronged domed spring restoring force providing element further comprises a central opening which includes a curvate volume for receiving and holding therein ~~said~~ a ball-shaped head.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)